DISCIPLINARY RULES

APRIL 2024

Linked legislation, regulations and/or external policies	*World Rugby Laws of the Game* *World Rugby Regulations*

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1. Introduction and Scope

Rugby Australia, in consultation with Member Unions, has developed these Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules ("**the Rules**") to maintain and promote fair play, protect the safety and welfare of Players, ensure that acts of Foul Play are dealt with expeditiously and appropriately by independent means within the Game, and that the image and reputation of the Game is not adversely affected. The Rules also ensure that there is uniformity in the way disciplinary procedures are administered in the Game across Australia.

The Rules are intended for use within Australian domestic rugby in all Formats, Competitions, Tournaments and Matches, whether or not the Match is for competition points (e.g. pre-season and tour matches with inter- state or overseas teams). For the avoidance of doubt, these Rules do **not** apply to Test Matches, Super Rugby AU, The Rugby Championship, Men's and Women's Sevens World Series or Oceania Sevens.

The Rules have been designed to achieve a universal and consistent approach to disciplinary proceedings for Foul Play, Citing, Disciplinary Procedures, Sanctions and Appeals. They outline the "**Core Principles**" (see below) underpinning the disciplinary process and general procedures for disciplinary matters, including universal sanctions (set by World Rugby) for all levels of the game.

Rugby Australia's disciplinary regime reflects World Rugby Regulation 17. It exists to sanction players whose Foul Play or Misconduct is other than purely accidental, and one of its most important principles is to prevent the risk of injury to other players in a dynamic and physical sport. Players have an obligation to ensure that they do not cause injury to opponents, so there is a presumption that any conduct which is prohibited by World Rugby Law 9 (Foul Play) merits a sanction.

The Rules also recognise that the approach to disciplinary issues for the Age-Grade game should be adjusted to reflect the age and truncated playing seasons of these young Players, as well as the need to educate and guide Age-Grade Players. As such, the *Age-Grade Disciplinary Procedures* will ensure a 'child-centric' approach when dealing with rugby disciplinary issues in Age-Grade rugby.

In the event of any question or issue arising in connection with the interpretation and/or effect of these Rules, the Rules should be interpreted and given effect in a manner which is consistent with the spirit, scheme and intent of the World Rugby Regulations found at https://www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations

The following are the Core Principles of the Rules:

(a) the sanctions applicable to Foul Play are to be the same throughout the Game in Australia and all Member Unions shall adopt and utilise the Adult and Age-Grade sanction tables for offences within the playing enclosure;

(b) all Matches are equal, that is, regardless of the level of competition provided they meet the criteria in Rule 95. A Player suspended from playing the Game shall be suspended from participating in any Match at any level during the period of the Player's suspension;

(c) the sanctioning process set out in Rules 83 to 97 shall be adhered to;

(d) the principles of procedural fairness shall be adhered to in all disciplinary proceedings. Such principles include, Players cited or Ordered Off shall have the right to be provided with the evidence against them, have the right to be heard, to be represented, to produce evidence and to defend themselves before independent adjudicators; and

(e) all Judicial Committee members, Appeal Committee members and Citing Commissioners shall meet the relevant criteria for appointment set out in these Rules. Each person shall exercise their functions independently of the parties to the proceedings, the Match and of the Unions or Rugby Bodies under whose jurisdiction responsibility falls for the relevant Match.

2. An Overview

1. The Rules set out the procedures for dealing with the following matters for which the Union has jurisdiction:

    (a) when a Player is Ordered Off the playing enclosure (Red Carded);

    (b) when a Player is cited for an act or acts of Foul Play (Citing Complaint);

    (c) when a Player has been Temporarily Suspended (Yellow Carded) and/or issued with a Citing Commissioner Warning, or a combination thereof, on two occasions in any one match or on three (3) or more occasions in any Competition in any one season;

    (d) other such matters specified in these Rules; and

    (e) an appeal from a decision of the Judicial Committee.

Please note that, subject to Rule 154, any allegations of off-field Misconduct committed by a Player, Participant or other Person shall not be dealt with under these Rules and should be dealt with under the Rugby Australia Professional Player Code of Conduct, Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy or other applicable code or policy.

2. All Participants, Persons, Rugby Bodies and Unions are deemed to have agreed to be subject to these Rules. Furthermore, all Rugby Bodies and Unions shall only use these Rules to deal with any matter set out in Rule 1(a) to (e) above. **Where a Rugby Body or a Union has applied other rules, regulations, by-laws or procedures, then any determination is void and the matter shall be reheard by a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee under these Rules.**

3. Rugby Australia may amend the Rules as required from time to time and may publish explanatory guidelines to assist a broader understanding of the operation of the Rules.

4. The Rules contain timing requirements e.g. time to refer a citing, time to submit a referee report and time to submit an appeal of a decision by a Judicial Committee. The Rules provide flexibility for Unions, allowing them to set their own schedule. However, where no time is outlined by a Union the default timings set out herein apply. A Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where the Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if it is considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time, provided that any request for an extension is sought within the original timeframe applicable. The table in **Appendix 8** provides a framework for Unions and Rugby bodies to set out their schedule in a simple and accessible format.

5. Please note that there are separate disciplinary procedures for Age-Grade Players that are designed to be child-centric and are set out in **Appendix 2**.

6. Rugby Australia recognises the unique structure of Sevens Tournaments and the timelines within which the Sevens Game operates. The provisions contained in Part 6 headed 'Modified Procedures for Foul Play in Sevens' apply to the Sevens Game for Foul Play.

3. General Procedures

COMPOSITION OF JUDICIAL COMMITTEES

7. The Union shall appoint a panel of individuals ("Judicial Panel") of such number as the Union sees fit, each of whom can be selected to sit as a member of a Judicial Committee. Members of the Judicial Panel (other than chairpersons – see Rule 9) shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the Game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a Player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.

8. When a Judicial Committee is appointed to adjudicate on a case, it should (subject to Rules 14 and 15) be made up of no less than three members of the Judicial Panel.

9. The Judicial Committee shall be chaired by:

   (a) a legal practitioner or a serving or retired judge, with appropriate rugby experience; or

   (b) persons with appropriate training or experience as defined by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match;

   and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.

10. The chairperson of the Judicial Committee is entitled, at their discretion, to invite observers to join the Judicial Committee for the purposes of education and training, provided that such observers are announced to the hearing and do not take part in the adjudication of the case(s) they observe.

11. The decisions of Judicial Committees are to be made by majority. In the event of an equality of votes on any question, the chairperson of the Judicial Committee will have both the deciding and casting vote.

12. No person who is a member or an employee of a Union or other Rugby Body participating in a Match, shall be eligible for appointment as chairperson or member of a Judicial Committee which is required to determine a matter arising out of that Match, save for with the consent of each of the teams playing in the

Match.

13. The Judicial Committee shall act independently, impartially and fairly. A member of the Judicial Committee who has a conflict of interest in dealing with the matter before the Judicial Committee should disclose the conflict and act in such a manner as they and/or the Judicial Committee considers appropriate including, if necessary or appropriate in the circumstances, by withdrawing from participation in the hearing.

14. Where circumstances make it a necessity, a Judicial Committee may be formed by less than three (3) members so long as the chairperson meets the appointment criteria as set out in Rule 9.

15. Where appropriate, the size, composition and approach of the Judicial Committee may also be adjusted for Age-Grade Players. For such Players, it is important to ensure that the procedures set out in **Appendix 2** are adhered to. This includes ensuring that all disciplinary proceedings are ideally conducted by people who have professional experience in dealing with young persons and are equipped to provide a comfortable and safe environment with the appropriate level of informality.

Part 1. Initial Procedures – Ordering Off (Red Card)

STANDARD PROCEDURES

16. A Player that has been Ordered Off is, without further notice, **provisionally suspended** and is not permitted to play any Match until the matter is determined by the Judicial Committee. The Player Ordered Off is required to attend a hearing in relation to the offence at the next constituted meeting of the Judicial Committee.

17. Where a Player is Ordered Off, the referee shall submit a written report to the Union with jurisdiction of the Match within the timeframe specified by that Union, or if no time is specified, then by **10 am on the first Business Day following the Match.** Failure to do so will not render any disciplinary proceedings invalid but may be a ground for an adjournment of any hearing.

18. If a Player is Ordered Off as a result of the intervention of an assistant referee, the assistant referee shall also send a written report to the Union with jurisdiction for the Match by the time specified by that Union or if no time is specified, then by **10**

am on the first Business Day following the Match.

19. Reports prepared by the referee and/or assistant referee when a Player has been ordered off should include the following:

    (a) the date/time of the Match, the venue and the teams participating;

    (b) the name of the Player Ordered Off, their jersey number and their Rugby Body;

    (c) the circumstances in which the Player was Ordered Off;

    (d) the reason(s) for the Player being Ordered Off (and Law allegedly breached); and

    (e) any other information the referee (or assistant referee where applicable) considers relevant.

    Rugby AU's Ordering Off Report Form attached to these Rules at **Appendix 3** or a form approved by the relevant Union may be used for this purpose.

20. The Union or its nominee shall arrange for the Ordering Off reports to be provided as soon as reasonably practicable to the Judicial Committee who will adjudicate on the case.

21. The Union or its nominee will arrange for any video recording commissioned by the Union to be provided as soon as reasonably practicable to the Judicial Committee who will adjudicate on the case.

22. Each Rugby Body involved in the Match that is the subject of the Ordering Off shall arrange for any video recording commissioned by that Rugby Body (whether on a formal or informal basis) to be provided as soon as reasonably practicable to the Judicial Committee, who will adjudicate the case, or alternatively, the Rugby Body shall provide a statutory declaration to the Judicial Committee, signed by the general manager (or equivalent) of the Rugby Body, declaring that no such recording exists.

23. The Union or its nominee must supply the Player Ordered Off with a copy of the Ordering Off reports and any other relevant evidence (including any footage of the alleged foul play and any medical reports) as soon as reasonably practicable and advise the Player of the details for the Judicial Committee hearing. This shall include:

    (a) the date, place and time of the Judicial Committee hearing;

    (b) the identity of the Judicial Committee members;

    (c) that the Player shall be required to attend in person at the hearing (which may include attendance by audio or audio-visual means at the discretion

of the Judicial Committee;

(d) that if the Player is unable to appear at the hearing, the Player should advise the Union and provide the reasons why they are unable to attend as soon as practicable;

(e) that the Player is entitled to adduce evidence and make submissions and be represented by his or her Rugby Body and/or a legal advisor; and

(f) that the Player is not eligible to play in any Match anywhere in the World and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending resolution of the case.

24. The Union must, where practicable, take all necessary steps to ensure that a hearing is scheduled to take place prior to the Player's next Match. If a hearing is scheduled and the Player does not attend the hearing, then Rule 72 applies.

ALTERNATE PROCEDURES – EARLY ADMISSION OF BREACH SANCTION

25. A Player Ordered Off and provisionally suspended in accordance with Rule 16 is not permitted to play any Match until the matter has been dealt with under these Rules and any suspension imposed has been properly served.

26. If, having considered all of the relevant on-field factors regarding the Foul Play, the Judicial Committee assesses that the Player's conduct is at the lower end entry point of 2 weeks or less, the Judicial Committee may offer the Player an 'Early Admission of Breach Sanction'. The Judicial Committee cannot apply a reduction greater than 50% unless the provisions in Rule 91 apply. Unions, in consultation with the Judicial Committee, may impose additional requirements for a Player to receive an Early Admission of Breach Sanction (e.g. that a Player has a clean disciplinary record).

27. A Player offered an Early Admission of Breach Sanction shall decide whether to accept the early admission of breach sanction offered by the Judicial Committee. A Player accepting an Early Admission of Breach Sanction accepts that he or she committed the act of Foul Play for which the Player has been charged and is therefore not required to attend a hearing in person before a Judicial Committee.

28. A Player accepting an Early Admission of Breach Sanction shall advise the Union or its nominee in writing of that acceptance by the time specified by the Union or if no time is specified, then **by 5 pm on the first Business Day following the offer** of the Early Admission of Breach Sanction.

29. A Player not accepting an Early Admission of Breach Sanction shall, either personally or through their Rugby Body, notify the Union or its nominee in writing

of this non-acceptance by the time specified by the Union or if no time is specified, then by **5 pm on the first Business Day following the offer** of the Early Admission of Breach Sanction. In that event, the Player will be required to appear before the Judicial Committee at the time nominated for the hearing of the charge.

If Ordering-Off proceeds to a hearing, refer to Section 4.

Part 2. Initial Procedures – Temporary Suspensions / Citing Commissioner Warnings

30. A Player that has been Temporarily Suspended (yellow carded) or received a Citing Commissioner Warning, or a combination thereof, on three (3) occasions in any one (1) particular Tournament, Competition or Series of Matches under the jurisdiction of a Union and has not given notice to challenge any of the decisions in accordance with Rule 32, is automatically suspended for one (1) Match. Any issue that arises regarding how that suspension is to be served, shall be referred to a Judicial Committee for determination in accordance with Section 4 of the Rules.

31. Further accumulation of yellow cards or Citing Commissioner Warnings is to be dealt with according to one of the below options which are at the Union's election. If the Union does not specify its election prior to commencement of the relevant Tournament, Competition or Series of Matches under its jurisdiction, option (a) shall operate:

    (a) a Player that accumulates two (2) additional yellow cards and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings and has not given notice to challenge any of the decisions in accordance with Rule 32, is automatically suspended for one (1) Match and is required to attend a hearing before the next convened Judicial Committee to determine whether any additional sanction is appropriate. For each yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning thereafter, the Player is automatically suspended for one (1) Match and is required to attend a hearing before the next convened Judicial Committee to determine whether any additional sanction is appropriate; or

    (b) for each further yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning where the Player has not given notice to challenge the decision in accordance with Rule 32, the Player is automatically suspended for one Match and is required to attend a hearing before the next convened Judicial

Committee to determine whether any additional sanction is appropriate.

32. A Player that has been Temporarily Suspended (yellow carded) or received a Citing Commissioner Warning may challenge it only if was received as a result of alleged mistaken identity. For a yellow card, the Player shall give written notice of his or her challenge within the time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match or if no time is specified, then within **48 hours** of completion of the Match in which the yellow card arose. For a Citing Commissioner Warning the Player shall give written notice of his or her challenge within the time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match, or if no time is specified, then within **48 hours** of receiving the Citing Commissioner Warning. The notice shall set out the basis of the challenge and will be duly recorded by the Union, to be considered by either the:

    (a) the Duty Judicial Officer (where one is nominated by the Union) who may make a determination; or

    (b) the Judicial Committee:

        i. at the next convened meeting; or

        ii. where it relates to Rule 30, when a Player accumulates three yellow cards and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings in any one particular Tournament, Competition or Series of Matches under the jurisdiction of a Union during a season.

    The Union shall decide which option it will take but it shall consider procedural fairness at all times.

33. If a Player is cited and subsequently sanctioned from an incident that gave rise to a yellow card, for the purposes of calculating the accumulation of yellow cards such incident will be classified as a citing and not a yellow card.

Part 3. Initial Procedures - Citings

ROLE OF A CITING COMMISSIONER

34. The Citing Commissioner's role is to cite Player(s) for alleged act(s) of Foul Play which, in the Citing Commissioner's opinion, should have warranted the Player concerned being Ordered Off (i.e. the "**Red Card Test**" has been met).

35. The Citing Commissioner may cite a Player for an act of Foul Play notwithstanding that the act has been detected by a Match Official and notwithstanding that the act may have been the subject of referee action. A Citing Commissioner may not cite a Player for an act of Foul Play in respect of which the Player has been Ordered Off

save where the Ordering Off is as a result of 2 yellow cards. A Player in that situation may be cited for the act of Foul Play which resulted in either or both yellow cards. The Citing Commissioner may cite a Player if he or she has been yellow carded. Such citing may be made in respect of the incident for which the Player was yellow carded and/or for other conduct that occurred during the Match. The Citing Commissioner's report shall contain the information as set out in Rule 38(a) to (e).

36. The Citing Commissioner may issue a Citing Commissioner Warning to a Player who has in the Citing Commissioner's opinion committed an act or acts of Foul Play which falls just short of satisfying the Red Card Test, in circumstances where the act of Foul Play was not subject to a yellow card or an Ordering Off. Rugby AU's Citing Commissioner Warning Form attached to these Rules at **Appendix 5** or a form approved by the relevant Union may be used for this purpose.

37. On receipt of the Citing Commissioner Warning, the nominated officer of the Union shall send a copy of the notification to the Player in respect of whom it is made, his or her Rugby Body and the appropriate Match Officials of the Match in which it is alleged the Foul Play occurred.

38. The Citing Commissioner Warning notification shall contain the following information:

    (a) Date/time and place of the alleged incident of Foul Play;

    (b) alleged offender's name (or if unknown, the offender's jersey number);

    (c) alleged offender's team;

    (d) team alleged offender played against; and

    (e) details of the alleged Foul Play and brief details of the evidence relied upon.

39. The Citing Commissioner shall act independently of the Judicial Committee. The Citing Commissioner may make such enquiries as he or she sees fit in order to fulfil their duties, including making enquiries of and collaborating with the Match Officials of a Match or other Citing Commissioners, provided that the ultimate decision as to whether or not to cite a player is the Citing Commissioner's.

40. All Persons requested to provide reports and/or information must do so within the timeframe requested or seek more time if required from the Citing Commissioner. Failure to provide the reports and/or information sought by the Citing Commissioner or their nominee may, in the absence of a reasonable explanation, constitute Misconduct.

41. A Citing Commissioner's decision as to whether a Player should be cited or given a Citing Commissioner Warning, whether as the result of an incident referred to him/her or otherwise, is final.

APPOINTMENT OF A CITING COMMISSIONER

42. A Union may appoint a suitably qualified[1] Citing Commissioner:

    (a) to a specific Match under the jurisdiction of the Union (see Rules 43- 46); or

    (b) post-match to review a Citing Complaint referred by a Union or Rugby Body, for instance to review incidents following a round of fixtures within a Tournament or Competition (see Citing Complaint Procedures below).

CITING COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO A MATCH

43. Citing Commissioners may be in attendance at the Match for which they are appointed. If they are not in attendance at the Match then they may rely on any available televised, streamed or recorded footage of the Match.

44. A Citing by a Citing Commissioner appointed to a Match shall be made within the time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match, or if no time is specified, within **72 hours** of completion of the Match. A Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where a Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if it is considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time for the Citing Commissioner to cite, provided that the extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

45. Where a Citing Commissioner has been appointed to a Match, the Union or other Rugby Body may refer any incident of alleged Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner for consideration. Such a referral should ordinarily be made to the Citing Commissioner within the time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match, or if no time is specified, within **48 hours** of the Match in which the incident is alleged to have occurred. A copy of the referral should be provided to the Union.

46. A Citing Commissioner Warning given where a Citing Commissioner (or nominee)

[1] Citing Commissioners shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the Game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a Player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.

is appointed to a Match shall be notified to the nominated officer of the Union within the time specified by that Union or, if no time is specified, within **72 hours** of the conclusion of the relevant Match.

CITING COMPLAINTS FOLLOWING REFERRAL OF A FOUL PLAY ALLEGATION

47. A Citing Complaint can be made against a Player for an alleged act of Foul Play committed during the Match, as follows:

    (a) by referral from a Rugby Body through a Nominated Official (as defined in Rule 49); or

    (b) by referral from a Union.

CITING COMPLAINT BY A RUGBY BODY WHERE NO CITING COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO A MATCH

48. Subject to Rule 45, each Rugby Body participating in a Match may refer a Citing Complaint against:

    (a) a Player for an act of Foul Play committed during a Match[2];

    (b) a Player for more than one alleged incident of Foul Play in the same Match; and/or

    (c) more than one Player in any Match.

49. For the purposes of the Citing Complaint procedure, the person referring the Citing Complaint on behalf of the Rugby Body must be:

    (a) an office bearer of the Rugby Body pursuant to the Rugby Body's constitution, or

    (b) authorised by the Union for that purpose.

50. A Union may charge a fee for a referral of a Citing Complaint. The amount of the fee is at the discretion of the Union but shall be notified in writing to all Rugby Bodies within the jurisdiction of the Union. Such fee may, at the discretion of the Judicial Committee, be returned to the Rugby Body if the referral is determined by either the Union or the Judicial Committee to not be vexatious, frivolous or groundless.

51. A Citing Complaint shall be completed in writing (the Citing Complaint Referral

[2] Irrespective of whether the act was or was not detected by a Match Official and notwithstanding that the act may have been the subject of referee action.

Form contained at **Appendix 4** or a form approved by the relevant Union may be used for this purpose), be accompanied by any fee payable to the Union (if applicable), and delivered to the Union or its nominee within the time specified by the Union, or if no time is specified, then within **48 hours** of the completion of the Match. All supporting evidence (including any video recordings) shall accompany the Citing Complaint. The Union or Judicial Committee may request further information including, if necessary, one or more statutory declarations. The Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where the Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if it is considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time for delivery of the Citing Complaint provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

52. The responsibility for obtaining information, reports and video recordings in relation to the Citing Complaint rests with the Nominated Official of the Rugby Body referring the Citing Complaint.

CITING COMPLAINT BY THE UNION WHERE NO CITING COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO A MATCH

53. Subject to Rule 45, the Union or its nominee may refer a Citing Complaint against:

    (a) a Player for an act of Foul Play committed during that Match[3];

    (b) a Player for more than one alleged incident of Foul Play in the same Match; and/or

    (c) more than one Player in any Match.

54. A Citing Complaint by the Union shall be completed in writing (the Citing Complaint Referral Form contained at **Appendix 4** or a Union approved form may be used for this purpose). All supporting evidence including, if necessary, one or more statutory declarations, shall accompany the complaint.

55. A Citing Complaint by the Union shall be completed in writing by the time specified by the Union or if no time is specified, then within **72 hours** of completion of the Match. The Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where the Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity

[3] Irrespective of whether the act was or was not detected by a Match Official and notwithstanding that the act may have been the subject of referee action.

(where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if it is considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time for delivery of the Citing Complaint provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

CONTENTS OF A CITING COMPLAINT

56. A Citing Complaint shall be completed in writing, and contain as much information as possible including, but not limited to, the following:

    (a) date/time and place of the alleged incident of Foul Play;

    (b) alleged offender's name (or if unknown, the alleged offender's jersey number);

    (c) alleged offender's team;

    (d) team alleged offender played against; and

    (e) details of the alleged Foul Play and brief details of the evidence relied upon.

    The Citing Complaint Referral Form contained at **Appendix 4** or a Union approved form should ordinarily be used for this purpose.

57. A Citing Complaint shall be accompanied by supporting evidence. Where the Citing Complaint is referred by a Rugby Body it shall include any video recording commissioned by the Rugby Body or alternatively a declaration to the Union or its nominee signed by the general manager (or equivalent) of the Rugby Body, declaring that no such recording exists, and such other information required under the Competition or Union rules.

CITING COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

58. Upon receipt of a Citing Complaint, the Union with jurisdiction for the Match shall appoint a Citing Commissioner to review the incident in question.

59. Once the matter is referred to a Citing Commissioner, he or she will determine whether the act(s) warrant a citing or a Citing Commissioner Warning in accordance with Rules 34 to 41.

60. Following a Citing Complaint, a citing by a Citing Commissioner shall be made within the period of time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match, or

if no time is specified, **within 72 hours** of the Citing Commissioner being appointed to review the incident. The Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where the Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time for a Citing Commissioner to consider whether or not to cite a Foul Play incident provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

61. Following a Citing Complaint, a Citing Commissioner Warning by a Citing Commissioner shall be made within the period of time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match, or if no time is specified, **within 72 hours** of the Citing Commissioner being appointed to review the incident. The Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where a Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) has the discretion, if considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, to grant an extension of time for a Citing Commissioner to consider whether or not to cite a Foul Play incident provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

HEARINGS FOLLOWING A CITING

62. The Union or its nominee must supply the cited Player with a copy of the Citing Complaint(s) and any other relevant evidence (including any footage of the alleged foul play and any medical reports) as soon as reasonably practicable and advise the Player of the details for the Judicial Committee hearing. This shall include:

    (a) the date, place and time of the Judicial Committee hearing;

    (b) the identity of the Judicial Committee members;

    (c) that the Player shall be required to attend in person at the hearing (which may include attendance by audio or audio-visual means at the discretion of the Judicial Committee;

    (d) that if the Player is unable to appear at the hearing, the Player should advise the Union and provide the reasons why they are unable to attend as soon as practicable;

(e) that the Player is entitled to adduce evidence and make submissions and be represented by his or her Rugby Body and/or a legal advisor; and

(f) advising the Player that, as they have been cited by a Citing Commissioner (appointed to a Match or appointed following a Citing Complaint), then the Player is not eligible to play in any Match anywhere in the World and shall be suspended from all on-field activities on Match days pending resolution of the case.

63. The Union shall, where practicable, take all necessary steps to ensure that a hearing is scheduled to take place prior to the Player's next Match. If a hearing is scheduled and the Player does not attend the hearing, then Rule 72 applies.

4. General Procedures at Hearings

DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

64. The Judicial Committee shall, after having followed the process set out in Rules 80 to 97 inclusive, decide upon one of the following courses of action:

(a) expunge the Ordering Off (Red Card) or yellow card from the Player's disciplinary record;

(b) take no further action and let any on-field decision(s) stand;

(c) caution the alleged offending Participant as to their future conduct; or

(d) impose a sanction on the Player.

POWER TO REGULATE OWN PROCEDURE

65. Subject at all times to the provisions of this Section 4, the Judicial Committee may determine its own procedures.

66. The principles of procedural fairness shall be adhered to in all disciplinary proceedings. Such principles include: Players cited or Ordered Off have the right to know the evidence against them, have the right to be heard, be represented, to present evidence and to defend themselves against any charge before independent adjudicators.

67. The Judicial Committee will endeavour to ensure that disciplinary proceedings are heard in the presence of the alleged offending Participant the subject of the proceedings (in person or via audio and/or audio-visual means), but nothing in these Rules or otherwise prevent a Judicial Committee hearing and determining disciplinary proceedings in the absence of the alleged offending Participant. In such circumstances, the Judicial Committee may take written representations made by or on behalf of the alleged offending Participant into account in making its decision.

PROCEDURE AT THE HEARING

68. The Judicial Committee will comply with the following procedural requirements:

(a) the Judicial Committee will introduce themselves[4] and the procedures to be followed at the hearing will be explained clearly by the chairperson at the commencement of the hearing;

(b) the chairperson of the Judicial Committee will read to the hearing (to the extent considered appropriate) the substance of any reports or other documents or materials provided in relation to the offence, complaint or alleged breach, including without limitation the referee's and assistant referee's report (if applicable);

(c) evidence/submissions/determination are to occur in the following sequence:

i. evidence taken from the alleged offending Participant;

ii. evidence taken from the alleged offending Participant's witnesses (if any);

iii. if applicable, evidence from the victim, first-hand accounts from witnesses and/or any expert evidence.

iv. submissions (if any) by a senior member of the alleged offending Participant's Rugby Body and/or the alleged offending Participant's legal representative with respect to a breach of the Laws of the Game;

v. determination by the Judicial Committee as to whether there has been a breach of the Laws of the Game;

vi. if a breach is found, submissions (if any) by the alleged offending Participant, a senior member of the alleged offending Participant's

[4] The Player should be asked if they have any objections to the make-up of the Judicial Committee. If so, this matter is to be determined by the Judicial Committee as a preliminary issue.

Rugby Body and/or the alleged offending Participant's legal representative with respect to Sanction; and

vii. determination by the Judicial Committee with respect to Sanction;

(d) At the commencement of the hearing the alleged offending Participant will be asked to confirm if he or she admits that he or she has committed an act of Foul Play;

(e) if, during a hearing, it becomes evident that the alleged offending Participant may have committed an offence in addition to, or other than, the charge(s) for which the hearing is being conducted:

i. the Judicial Committee may vary, alter or add to the charge or substitute an entirely new charge based on facts reported in the initial charge; and

ii. the alleged offending Participant should then be given the opportunity to answer the amended charge. An adjournment of the proceedings, if sought, may be granted if the Judicial Committee considers it necessary to ensure that procedural fairness is provided to the parties;

(f) the Judicial Committee:

i. may adjourn and/or postpone proceedings as it considers necessary or appropriate;

ii. may determine whether witnesses are permitted to remain within the room in which the matter is being heard either before or after their evidence has been given;

iii. may direct that an interpreter be present to partake in the proceedings;

iv. may call on experts to provide specialist advice;

v. may be assisted by a legal advisor;

vi. shall deliberate on their decisions in private and at the conclusion of the evidence and submissions;

vii. may request that the Match Official(s) or Citing Commissioner give evidence at a hearing (by telephone, video or in person) where the Committee considers it desirable; and

viii. shall allow a nominated officer from the Match Official(s)' Referees Association to attend a hearing as an observer (irrespective of whether the Match Official has been requested by the Committee to

attend the hearing in accordance with vii. above).

69. Where evidence is given before a Judicial Committee, any witness may be cross examined to the extent permitted by the Judicial Committee chairperson. Questions shall be put to the witness through the Judicial Committee chairperson if the Judicial Committee chairperson deems it appropriate.

70. The alleged offending Participant is entitled to be represented before the Judicial Committee by a senior member of his/her Rugby Body and/or his/her legal representative. In addition, if the alleged offending Participant wishes to call witnesses, they may do so if the Judicial Committee is satisfied that the witness in question may be able to give evidence relevant to the proceedings.

71. The proceedings at hearing shall be recorded by way of stenography, audio recording and/or audio- visual recording. The record of the proceedings, and all paperwork, shall be held for a suitable period by the Union. In the event of an appeal from the determination of the Judicial Committee, a copy of the record shall be made available to the relevant Appeal Committee upon request.

72. Without derogating from the Judicial Committee's power under Rule 67, where an alleged offending Participant fails to attend the meeting of the Judicial Committee, he or she is automatically suspended (unless already provisionally suspended after having been Ordered-Off or cited) from participation in all Matches until such time as he or she attends a hearing on a revised date set by the Judicial Committee. Unless reasonable notice and adequate reason for non-appearance is given prior to the appointed meeting of the Judicial Committee, that Judicial Committee may impose such additional suspension as it considers appropriate as penalty for the Participant's failure to attend as required.

EVIDENCE ADMISSIBLE AT HEARINGS

73. The Judicial Committee is not bound by the strict rules of evidence and may inform itself as it sees fit (including by the receipt of evidence in writing) and is entitled to attach such weight to that evidence as the Judicial Committee sees fit.

74. First-hand accounts from persons present at the hearing as to their observations of the incident in question are to be preferred. Hearsay evidence (i.e. second-hand accounts of what occurred) and/or opinion evidence (other than expert opinion evidence), should generally not be admitted or considered by the Judicial Committee in reaching its decision. Expert evidence is only likely to be permitted when the evidence falls outside the everyday knowledge of members of the Judicial Committee.

75. A Participant may tender evidence to the Judicial Committee in writing. Similarly, evidence tendered by witnesses may be in writing.

76. Audio Visual evidence:

    (a) The Judicial Committee has the sole discretion to determine if it will accept evidence in the form of video recordings;

    (b) The Judicial Committee will decide what weight should be attached to any video evidence it accepts into evidence;

    (c) If there is a dispute on the facts, any video accepted into evidence may be shown again on as many occasions as are considered necessary by the Judicial Committee, and at any speed, to resolve any factual discrepancies. The Judicial Committee can, in its discretion, determine, if and when, the video will be replayed; and

    (d) The Judicial Committee shall inform the alleged offending Participant of the nature of any conclusions it has drawn from the video evidence.

77. Character evidence will be admissible only in relation to the sanction to be imposed by the Judicial Committee.

STANDARD AND BURDEN OF PROOF FOR ORDERING OFF AND CITING

78. The standard of proof for all matters under these Rules shall be on the balance of probabilities. At first instance Judicial Committee hearings, in the event that the Player does not accept that the act(s) of Foul Play which is the subject of the hearing warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited, the burden of proof rests on the Player to show that the referee/Citing Commissioner was wrong.

79. The integrity of Law 6.5(a) of the Laws of the Game and the referee's position as the ultimate judge of fact and law during a Match is unassailable. The purpose of a subsequent review of a Foul-Play incident that occurred during a Match, by a Judicial Committee, is to determine whether there should be any disciplinary sanctions applied for an act of Foul Play as provided for in these Rules. With the sole exception of these Rules (and/or in appropriate circumstances under World Rugby Regulations) the referee's decisions on the field of play and their sporting consequences shall not be altered or overturned by a ruling of a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee.

STAGE 1 – THE "RED CARD TEST"

80. The Judicial Committee shall first determine whether or not the relevant act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or should have resulted in the Player being Ordered Off. The Player may either:

    (a) admit that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited in which case the function of the Judicial Committee is to determine what sanction, if any, should be imposed on the Player under Rules 83 to 97.

    (b) deny that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted the Player being Ordered Off or cited in which case, the Player may seek to show that the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner was wrong. The Judicial Committee may review the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner and the circumstances surrounding it. In any such case, the Judicial Committee shall not make a finding contrary to the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner unless they are satisfied, on the balance of probabilities that the decision of the referee or Citing Commissioner was wrong. In a case where a Player has been cited, the Judicial Committee may take account of any action taken during the Match in respect of the alleged Foul Play by the Match Officials and may review the referee's decision and the circumstances surrounding it and may make a finding contrary to the referee's decision.

81. Where the Player admits that the act(s) of Foul Play warranted being Ordered Off or cited or where the Ordering Off is not overturned or the citing is upheld, the Judicial Committee shall move to the next stage of the hearing to determine the sanction (if any) to be imposed on the Player in accordance with Rules 83 to 97.

82. Where the Judicial Committee determines that the act(s) of foul play did not warrant the player being Ordered Off or cited, no further sanction is imposed on the Player, the hearing ends and the Judicial Committee shall expunge the Ordering Off (Red Card) or citing from the Player's disciplinary record.

STAGE 2 – SANCTIONS AND CORE SANCTIONING PROCESS

83. When imposing sanctions for Foul Play in relation to an Ordering Off or Citing in accordance with these Rules, the Judicial Committee will apply the World Rugby sanctions regime set out in **Appendix 1** in respect of adult Players and **Appendix 2** for Age-Grade Players (unless the Age-Grade Player is participating in adult rugby).

84. Where a Player has been found to have committed an act of Foul Play not specifically prescribed in **Appendix 1** or **2,** appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Committee and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

STEP 1: WHAT IS THE CORRECT ENTRY POINT FOR THE SANCTION?

Assessment of seriousness of the Foul Play

85. The Judicial Committee shall undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct that constitutes the offending and categorise that conduct as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end on the scale of seriousness in order to identify the appropriate entry point for consideration of particular act(s) of Foul Play where such act(s) are expressly covered in **Appendix 1**.

86. The assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct shall be determined by reference to the following matters:

(a) whether the offending was intentional;

(b) whether the offending was reckless, that is, the Player knew (or should have known) there was a risk of committing an act(s) of Foul Play;

(c) the nature of the actions and the manner in which the offence was committed, including which part of body used (for example, fist, elbow, knee or boot);

(d) the existence of provocation;

(e) whether the Player acted in retaliation and, if so, the timing of that retaliation;

(f) whether the Player acted in self-defence (that is, whether the Player used a reasonable degree of force in defending themself);

(g) the effect of the Player's actions on the victim (including the extent of injury, whether it caused the removal of the victim Player from the Match and (if applicable) the length of time the victim will be absent from the Game due to the injury);

(h) the effect of the Player's actions on the Match;

(i) the vulnerability of the victim Player, including which part of the victim's body was involved/affected, the position of the victim Player at the time of the relevant conduct and the ability of the victim Player to defend themself;

(j) the level of participation in the offending and level of premeditation;

(k) whether the conduct of the offending Player was completed or amounted to an attempt; and

(l) any other feature of the Player's conduct in relation to or connected with the offending which the Judicial Committee considers relevant.

Based on the assessment of the offence(s) under consideration against the above features of offending, the Judicial Committee shall categorise the act(s) of Foul as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end of the scale of seriousness of offending and identify the applicable entry point as set out in **Appendix 1**.

87. For offences categorised at the top end of the scale of seriousness of offending, the Judicial Committee is required to identify an entry point between the period shown as the top end for the particular offence and the maximum sanction in **Appendix 1**.

88. The Judicial Committee and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be) will determine the appropriate entry point for offences not expressly prescribed in the sanction regimes in **Appendix 1 or 2.**

STEP 2: ARE THERE ANY REASONS TO DECREASE THE SANCTION?

Mitigating Factors

89. Having identified the applicable entry point for consideration of a particular incident, the Judicial Committee shall identify any relevant off-field mitigating factors and determine if there are grounds for reducing the period of suspension and subject to Rules 90 and 91 the extent, if at all, by which the period of suspension should be reduced. Mitigating factors include:

(a) the presence and timing of an acknowledgement of the commission of

foul play by the offending Player;

(b) the Player's good disciplinary record;

(c) the youth and/or inexperience of the Player;

(d) the Player's conduct prior to and at the hearing;

(e) the Player having demonstrated remorse for their conduct to the victim Player including the timing of such remorse; and

(f) any other off-field mitigating factor(s) that the Judicial Committee considers relevant and appropriate.

90. Subject to Rules 91 and 93, for acts of Foul Play, the Judicial Committee cannot apply a reduction for mitigating factors greater than 50% of the relevant entry point suspension (prior to any increase for aggravating factors). In assessing the percentage reduction applicable for mitigating factors, the Judicial Committee will start at 0% reduction and apply the amount, if any, to be allowed as mitigation up to the maximum 50% reduction.

91. In cases involving offending that has been classified pursuant to Rule 86 as lower end offending, where:

(a) there are off-field mitigating factors; and

(b) the Judicial Committee considers that the lower end entry sanction (specified in **Appendix 1**) would be wholly disproportionate to the level and type of offending involved,

the Judicial Committee may apply sanctions less than 50% of the lower end entry sanctions specified in **Appendix 1**, including in appropriate cases, no sanction.

STEP 3: ARE THERE ANY REASONS TO INCREASE THE SANCTION?

Aggravating Factors

92. Thereafter, the Judicial Committee shall identify any relevant off-field aggravating factors and determine what additional period of suspension, if any, should apply to the case in question. Aggravating factors include:

(a) the Player's status generally as an offender of the Laws of the Game[5];

[5] The Player's disciplinary record in all competitions and (as appropriate) in other sports during their playing career from the age of 18 shall be considered by a Judicial Committee. In any case in which the Judicial Committee establishes that the Player has previously been found by a Judicial Committee (or other sporting tribunal) to have committed any act of Foul Play and/or Misconduct then the Judicial Committee in imposing any sanction on the

(b) the need to deter a particular type or pattern of offending in the Game where the teams participating in the Match or Tournament have been put on notice that such a need exists; and

(c) any other off-field aggravating factor(s) that the Judicial Committee considers relevant and appropriate (including poor conduct prior to or at the hearing).

Step 4: APPLYING THE SANCTION TO THE PLAYER'S PLAYING SCHEDULE

Imposition of Sanctions

93. In cases of **multiple offending**, the Judicial Committee may impose sanctions to run either on a concurrent or a consecutive basis provided that the total sanction is in all the circumstances proportionate to the level of the overall offending.

94. The Judicial Committee will ordinarily in their written decisions, pursuant to Rule 99, set out the reasoning for their findings, including:

(a) the finding on culpability;

(b) how they have categorised the seriousness of the offence by reference to the features set out in Rules 85 and 86;

(c) how they identified and applied any mitigating (Rule 89) and aggravating (Rule 92) factors; and

(d) conclude with the resultant sanction, if any, imposed including, for the avoidance of doubt, the expiry date of the suspension setting out number of weeks, or where the Player has a specific playing schedule that is known at the time of the imposition of the sanction, a list of the Matches (or Match weekends, rounds or dates where specific fixtures have not yet been scheduled) (subject, ordinarily, to a maximum of 2 matches in any 7 day period), for which the Player is suspended provided that, in any event, the Player would, on the best information available at the time of the decision, be scheduled to play in a Match which would meet the criteria set out in Rule 95 below on each of the weeks taken into account and that an expiry date is stipulated for the suspension. Sanctions for Players in non-elite rugby settings should ordinarily be expressed in weeks for simplicity and clarity.

95. For the purposes of imposing a meaningful suspension, Judicial Committees shall take into account weeks in which there is a Match(es) which comply with each of

Player may take account of such offending as an aggravating factor in determining the appropriate sanction.

the following criteria:

(a) until such time as the Player was suspended, the Player would otherwise have been scheduled to play in the Match, the burden resting with the Player to prove that the Player was scheduled to play. Where the Player was scheduled to play in more than one Match in a week (for example, a mid-week fixture) this week still only counts as one week of the suspension save where the rules of the particular tournament or tour from which the suspension arises and in which there is more than one Match per week allow for a suspension within that tournament or tour to be served in Matches;

(b) the Match is to be played between two teams in compliance with all of the Laws of the Game;

(c) where the Match is not part of a tournament, tour or Series of Matches which has been sanctioned by Rugby Australia or a State or Territory Union, the Match:

i. is to be played between teams of equivalent level (for example, similar divisions or standards of play) and who play at the same or an equivalent level of the Game to the Player's ordinary level;

ii. is to feature the best players available to each team;

iii. is to be played at a venue of the capacity and characteristics ordinarily used by teams of this level or standard;

iv. is to be open to the public (and in the case of a Match involving professional teams, tickets will be sold);

v. is scheduled within 4 weeks prior to a Match, tournament, tour or Series of Matches which has been sanctioned by Rugby Australia or a State or Territory Union;

(d) where the Match is a playoff, final or similar Match for which the Player's team has not yet qualified, the Judicial Committee may provide for alternate applications of the Player's sanction whereby the Match(es) in question shall be counted if the Player's team participates, or not counted if the Player's team does not participate in which case the Match(es) in which the Player's team next participates is instead included in the sanction;

(e) where the Player is scheduled to play in a different form of the Game to that from which the sanction arises and those Matches in the other form of the Game fall within the period of the suspension, those Matches shall

be taken into account for the purposes of the suspension if they meet all of the criteria set out in this Rule 95 save that in the case of a Player whose suspension arises from a fifteen-a-side Match, only tournaments or Series of Matches in an abbreviated form of the Game which have been sanctioned by Rugby Australia or a State or Territory Union shall be taken into account and, in such case, each tournament or Series of Matches played over a weekend shall be considered to equate to one week for the purposes of calculating the suspension of a Player arising from a fifteen-a-side Match.

Players shall not be free to participate in rugby activities which a Judicial Committee (or, as applicable, Appeal Committee) has considered do not meet the criteria in this Rule 95 and thus have not been included as a week for which the Player is suspended.

96. The following principles shall apply to the imposition of decisions on sanctions and suspensions under these Rules:

(a) sanctions and suspensions shall be applied immediately and may not be suspended;

(b) sanctions and suspensions shall be recognised and applied universally by Member Unions,

(c) Associations, Tournament Organisers, Rugby Bodies and their constituent bodies; and

(d) Players subject to a suspension may not play the Game (or any form thereof) or be involved in any on-field Match day activities anywhere from the time they are Ordered Off, cited or where the Player has been suspended due to the accumulation of Temporary Suspensions until their suspension expires or their case is dismissed.

97. Notwithstanding the Sanctions in **Appendix 1** and/or the provisions of the Rules, in cases where the Player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Committee may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

NOTIFICATION OF DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

98. The Participant shall be advised, without delay, of the decision of the Judicial Committee that conducted the hearing.

99. The Judicial Committee shall provide a written report of the decision to the Participant no later than **5 Business Days** after the hearing and record the details of the findings in Rugby Xplorer (or the relevant competition management system used by the State/Territory Union). Rugby AU's Short Judgment Form contained at **Appendix 7** or a form approved by the relevant State/Territory Union may be used for this purpose. In a case involving an Ordering Off or allegation of Match Official abuse, a copy of the report shall also be provided to the Referee Association of the Match Official(s) concerned by the State/Territory Union or Rugby Australia.

100. In all cases an offending Participant shall be advised that they have a right of appeal to the Appeal Committee within the time prescribed by the relevant Union, or if no time is prescribed, then within the time prescribed by these Rules.

101. In the event that an appeal is lodged, the record of the hearing before the Judicial Committee made in accordance with Rule 71 shall be made available to the Appeal Committee.

102. No member of a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee may make any comment to the media or other public comment in relation to a decision of that body.

5. Appeals

COMPOSITION OF APPEAL COMMITTEE

103. A Union shall appoint a panel of individuals ("Appeal Panel") of such number as the Union sees fit, each of whom can be selected to sit as members of an Appeal Committee. Members of the Appeal Panel (other than chairpersons – see Rule 104) shall have experience as members of Judicial Committees and shall have recent knowledge of the laws and skills of the Game and appropriate rugby experience preferably as a Player, referee or coach and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match.

104. Subject to Rule 108, an Appeal Committee appointed to adjudicate on a case shall be comprised of no less than three members of the Appeal Panel. The Appeal Committee shall be chaired by a current or retired legal practitioner of at least three years standing or a serving or retired judge, with appropriate rugby experience as a Judicial Committee chairperson and shall meet any additional requirements, including training qualifications, prescribed by the Union

responsible for the implementation of disciplinary procedures in respect of the Match. The decisions of Appeal Committees shall be made by majority. In the event of an equality of votes on any question, the chairperson of the Appeal Committee will have both the deciding and casting vote.

105. No person who is a member of the Union or other Rugby Body responsible for the management of either team participating in the Match, is eligible for appointment as chairperson or member of an Appeal Committee.

106. The Appeal Committee shall act independently, impartially and fairly. A member of the Appeal Committee who has a conflict of interest in dealing with the matter before the Appeal Committee shall disclose the conflict and act in such a manner as they and/or the Appeal Committee considers appropriate (including, if necessary or appropriate in the circumstances, by withdrawing from participation in the hearing).

107. No person shall be appointed on an Appeal Committee to hear an appeal with respect to a decision in which that person participated as part of the Judicial Committee.

108. Where circumstances make it a necessity, an Appeal Committee may be formed by less than three (3) members so long as the chairperson meets the appointment criteria as set out in Rule 104.

109. Where appropriate, the size, composition and approach of the Appeal Committee may also be adjusted for Age-Grade Players. For such Players, it is important to ensure that the process is conducted by people who are accustomed to dealing with children and are equipped to provide a comfortable and safe environment with the appropriate level of informality.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

110. There is a right of appeal to an Appeal Committee from a decision of a Judicial Committee by:

    (a) the offending Player;

    (b) the Referees' Association of the Match Official whose report included an allegation of match official abuse but subject to the approval of the relevant Union;

    (c) the Board of the relevant Union or its nominee; or

    (d) Rugby Australia.

111. Where an offending Player is suspended or had other sanctions imposed, such suspension and/or sanction will remain in place and will not be stayed pending the outcome of an Appeal.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

112. An appeal may only be brought on one or more of the following grounds:

    (a) the decision was wrong in fact or in law;

    (b) the sanction imposed was manifestly excessive; and/or

    (c) the sanction imposed was manifestly inadequate,

    and the Appellant bears the onus and burden of satisfying the Appeal Committee that the grounds of the appeal have been made out, on the balance of probabilities.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

113. An appeal to the Appeal Committee by any of the parties referred to in Rules 110(a) and 110(b), is invalid unless it is lodged in writing with the relevant Union within the time specified by the Union, or if no time is specified, then within **48 hours** from the time in which the written decision was provided to that party. The Appeal Committee may, if it considers it to be in the interests of the Game to do so, grant an extension of time within which to lodge an appeal provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Appeal Committee before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

114. An appeal to the Appeal Committee by the Board of the relevant Union or by Rugby Australia shall ordinarily be lodged within **72 hours** from the time at which the Union or Rugby Australia (as applicable) is provided with the written decision of the Judicial Committee. The Appeal Committee may, if it considers it to be in the interests of the Game to do so, grant an extension of time within which to lodge an appeal provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Appeal Committee before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

115. An appeal is deemed to have been lodged by the relevant party ("Appellant") when the notice of appeal has been received by the relevant Union within the time prescribed by the Rules.

116. The notice of appeal must be in writing and shall specify the:

    (a) name of the Appellant lodging the appeal;

    (b) decision appealed against;

(c) date of the decision appealed against;

(d) date of notification of the decision appealed against by the Appellant; and

(e) the specific grounds of the appeal with reference to Rule 112.

117. Each notice of appeal, save where Rugby Australia is appealing, shall be accompanied by a deposit of $250 (or such other amount as determined in writing by the relevant Union), which will be forfeited to the Union if the appeal is determined by the Appeal Committee to be vexatious, frivolous or groundless.

118. In the event the required deposit is not paid, the appeal is deemed to be abandoned. The Appeal Committee may, if it considers it to be in the interests of the Game to do so, grant an extension of time within which to lodge the deposit provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Appeal Committee before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

119. On lodgment of the appeal, the relevant Union will provide the Appeal Committee and the Appellant(s) with the full record of the hearing before the Judicial Committee made in accordance with Rule 71.

HEARING DATE

120. The Appeal Committee shall, as soon as practicable, appoint a time, date and place for the hearing of the appeal, and provide the Appellant with details of that appointment.

POWER TO REGULATE OWN PROCEDURES

121. An Appeal Committee can determine its own procedures subject to the requirement that it shall accord procedural fairness in the determination of an appeal.

122. An Appeal Committee will determine the appeal based on the evidence that was received and considered by the Judicial Committee in the prior hearing. An Appeal Committee may only receive further evidence in the course of an appeal if it is satisfied that the evidence is relevant to the issues to be determined in the appeal and was not reasonably available to the Appellant at the time of the hearing by the Judicial Committee.

123. The Appeal Committee may postpone or adjourn the hearing of an appeal.

REPRESENTATION

124. The Appellant may be represented before the Appeal Committee by their legal

representative. Where the Appellant is a Player, they may be represented by their Rugby Body also or instead of a legal representative.

DECISION OF THE APPEAL COMMITTEE

125. In determining an appeal, the Appeal Committee:

(a) if not satisfied that one of the grounds in Rule 112 has been established, may dismiss the appeal and affirm the decision appealed from;

(b) if it finds some form of error which did not impact the final result or give rise to a substantial miscarriage of justice, may dismiss the appeal and affirm the decision appealed from; or

(c) if satisfied one or more of the grounds specified in Rule 112 is established, may vary, reverse or set aside the decision appealed from, in whole or in part, and substitute its own decision (including as to penalty or sanction).

DELIVERY OF DECISION

126. The Appeal Committee shall advise the Appellant of its decision as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing.

127. The Appeal Committee shall provide a written report of the decision to the relevant Union as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the hearing.

FINALITY OF APPEAL

128. Subject to Rules 155 to 156, the Decision of the Appeal Committee is final. No further avenue of appeal is available.

6. Modified Procedures for Foul Play in Sevens

129. In recognition of the unique structure of Sevens Tournaments (and other Series of Matches) and the timelines within which the Sevens Game operates, the following provisions apply to the Sevens Game for Foul Play.

130. In respect of all Sevens Matches, the procedures and standards in respect of the

fifteen-a-side game as provided in these Rules apply, save as provided in this Part 6.

INITIAL PROCEDURES – ORDERING OFF

131. If a Player is Ordered Off in a Sevens Match, their case will, whenever practicable, be adjudicated on **within 2 hours** of the conclusion of that Match, or prior to them playing another Match in the Tournament (whichever is earlier). Rugby AU's Ordering Off Report Form attached to these Rules as **Appendix 3** or a Union approved form may be used for this purpose.

132. In light of the specific time pressures in Sevens Tournaments and Series of Matches it is not necessary that written notice of the proposed Judicial Committee hearing be given to the Player Ordered Off. This rule is sufficiently complied with if the referee's report and where applicable, the assistant referee's report and any other relevant evidential material, together with verbal confirmation of the hearing details are provided to the Player or the Player's team manager.

INITIAL PROCEDURES – CITINGS AND CITING COMMISSIONER WARNINGS

133. The Rugby Body responsible for the management of either participating team in a Sevens Match does not have the power to cite a Player for Foul Play but may refer any incident of Foul Play to the Citing Commissioner (where one has been appointed) for consideration, provided such incident is referred to the Citing Commissioner within the time specified by the union responsible for the Match, or if no time is specified, then **within 30 minutes** of the completion of the Match in which the incident is alleged to have occurred. A Citing Commissioner's decision as to whether a Player should be cited or not, whether as the result of an incident referred to him or otherwise, is final.

134. The notice of a citing by a Citing Commissioner appointed to a Match should ordinarily contain the information provided in Rule 56 and be received by the Judicial Committee or in default the nominated officer of the Union with jurisdiction of the Tournament within the time specified by the Union, or if no time is specified, then **within 60 minutes** of the end of the Match in which the act or acts of Foul Play is alleged to have taken place.

135. Where a Player is the subject of a citing pursuant to Rule 134 their case wherever practicable should be adjudicated on **within 2 hours** of the Citing Complaint Form having been received by the Player or prior to their next scheduled Match.

136. A Citing Commissioner Warning, where a Citing Commissioner is appointed to the

Match, shall be notified to the nominated officer of the Union with jurisdiction of the Tournament in which the incident occurred ordinarily **within 60 minutes** of the end of the Match in which the act or acts of Foul Play is alleged to have taken place. The Citing Commissioner Warning notification shall contain the information provided in Rule 56.

137. Where no Citing Commissioner is appointed to the Match, Rules 47 to 63 apply.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE – POWER TO REGULATE OWN PROCEDURE

138. In Sevens, any case involving an Ordering Off or citing, will be adjudicated on by the Judicial Committee (which may, subject to Rule 14, be a single member).

139. Any matters not provided for in these Modified Procedures for Sevens or the sanction regime in **Appendices 1** and **2** shall in the first instance be referred to the Judicial Committee who can deal with such matter as it sees fit.

SANCTIONS IN A SEVENS CONTEXT

140. The World Rugby's Sanctions for Foul Play set out in **Appendices 1** and **2** to these Rules have been established on the basis that a one-week period of suspension would normally result in a Player missing one Match of Fifteens. During a Sevens Tournament, Players may participate, or participating Unions may be scheduled to participate, in several Matches per day. When determining the appropriate period of suspension, the Judicial Committee should take cognisance of the fact that during a Sevens Tournament or Series of Matches a Player may miss more than one Match as a result of being made subject to a week's suspension and may impose a suspension based on a number of Tournament Matches. In this respect the Judicial Committee shall have regard to the overall impact of the suspension. This provision does not preclude the imposition of periods of suspension running beyond a Player's participation in the Tournament.

141. The Judicial Committee shall convey its decision in writing as soon as reasonably practicable to the Player and to the teams involved in the Match. The decision is binding on the Player as soon as they, their representative, or their team is notified of the decision.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS AND CITING COMMISSIONER WARNINGS

142. The maximum period of exclusion for a Temporary Suspension (yellow card) shall **not exceed 2 minutes** and does not include half-time for time-keeping purposes. If the period of exclusion continues beyond the half-time interval, the excluded Player is not permitted contact with their team.

143. A Player who has been yellow carded and/or received a Citing Commissioner Warning in three or more Matches and/or received a combination of three or more yellow cards and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings at a single Sevens tournament or Series of Matches, that has not given notice of a challenge to the yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning in accordance with Rule 144, will be automatically suspended for one (1) Match.

144. A Player who receives a yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning may challenge that yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning if it was received only as a result of mistaken identity. For a yellow card the Player shall give written notice of their challenge within the time specified by the Union with jurisdiction for the Match or if no time is specified, then **within 2 hours** of completion of the Match in which the yellow card arose. For a Citing Commissioner Warning, the Player shall give written notice of their challenge **within 24 hours** of receiving notice of the Citing Commissioner Warning. A Judicial Committee and/or Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or their nominee (where a Judicial Committee is not available) and the Head of Integrity (where Rugby Australia has jurisdiction for the relevant Match, Competition or Tournament) may, if considered to be in the interests of the Game to do so, grant an extension of time for a notice of challenge to be given provided that the request for an extension is considered by the Judicial Committee, Rugby Australia's Judicial Chair or the Head of Integrity before the expiry of the original timeframe applicable.

145. The notice shall set out particulars about the challenge and will be duly recorded by the Union, to be considered by either the:

    (a) Duty Judicial Officer (where one is nominated by the Union) who may make a determination;

    (b) Judicial Committee at the next convened meeting; or

    (c) Judicial Committee after a Player has accumulated three (3) yellow cards and/or Citing Commissioner Warnings.

    The Union may elect which of the above avenues to take but shall consider procedural fairness at all times.

146. A report of the foul play resulting in the yellow card(s) shall be forwarded to the nominated officer of the Union with jurisdiction of the Tournament as soon as reasonably practicable and ordinarily within 2 hours of the completion of the Match in which the yellow card was imposed.

147. The Union will ordinarily forward a copy of the report to the relevant parties within 4 hours of receipt.

Such report shall clearly state that the Player has the right to challenge the yellow card on the grounds of mistaken identity but if they wish to do so they shall give notice of their challenge within the time specified by the Union, or if no time is specified, then **within 60 minutes** of receipt. Such notice will be duly recorded by the Union and will be considered in the event of the Player subsequently being involved in any judicial hearing in relation to the accumulation of yellow cards.

APPEALS

148. To be valid, any appeal against the decision of the Judicial Committee in Sevens shall be lodged with the Union in writing, within the time specified by the Union, or if no time is specified, then **within 24 hours** of the notification of the decision of the Judicial Committee to the Player or their Union.

149. Appeals will ordinarily be heard by the Appeal Committee (which may, subject to Rule 108, be a single Judicial Officer).

7. Miscellaneous Matters

CLEMENCY FOR LONG-TERM SUSPENSIONS

150. A person the subject of a Long-Term Suspension may apply to the Rugby Australia Chief Executive Officer for clemency after he or she has served at least eight (8) years of the suspension handed down by the relevant Judicial Committee. Rugby AU's Chief Executive Officer or their nominee will determine, at their absolute discretion, whether it is appropriate for the applicant to return to the game of Rugby.

RECOGNITION OF SANCTIONS AND DECISIONS

151. Rugby AU respects and has the power to recognise any registration decisions, stand-downs, provisional suspensions, suspensions and sanctions imposed by other sports in Australia or overseas. A Participant found guilty of an offence by a sport (or the National Sports Tribunal) will not be permitted to participate in any rugby union competition, tournament or match under the auspices of Rugby AU for the duration of the suspension. If a sanction, other than a suspension, or other measures are imposed on a Participant by another sporting body then the sanction or other measures may be recognised and enforced by Rugby AU to the extent practicable. The Head of Integrity may, having consulted with the Rugby AU CEO

and/or CEO of a relevant Member Union, recognise and apply, in any manner considered appropriate, any decision of another sporting body in Australia or overseas to bar, deregister, to refuse to register or any other similar decision, and to direct that the individual in question does not train with any Rugby Body.

152. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Head of Integrity under Rule 151 may appeal, in accordance with Part 5, to an Appeal Committee within 14 days from the date on which the written decision was sent. The decision of the Appeal Committee is final and may not be appealed further.

UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

153. In the event that a particular incident takes place for which there is no provision in these Rules then a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee may take such action as it considers appropriate in the circumstances in accordance with general principles of procedural fairness.

MATTERS INVOLVING ALLEGED FOUL PLAY AND ALLEGED MISCONDUCT

154. In circumstances where an alleged act(s) of Foul Play and an alleged act(s) of Misconduct (e.g. an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct) arise in respect of the same Match for the same Player and provided it does not give rise to an injustice to the Player, for convenience both matters may be dealt with by the same Judicial Committee, notwithstanding that the acts may be governed by different provisions and procedures.

POWER OF REVIEW

155. The Head of Integrity, or their nominee, shall have the power to refer any matter to a Judicial Officer/Committee for review where the Head of Integrity is of the view that there has been a failure on behalf of any Rugby Body or its Judicial and/or Appeal Committees in applying these Rules resulting in serious error, injustice or unfairness.

156. If the Judicial Officer/Committee finds that there has been a failure to properly apply these Rules, resulting in serious error, injustice or unfairness, they/it can take any such action as they/it considers necessary in all the circumstances of the case.

PROCEEDINGS NOT INVALIDATED FOR DEFECTS, IRREGULARITIES, ETC.

157. Procedures or proceedings under these Rules or any decision of a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee shall not be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality unless such defect,

irregularity, omission or technicality raises a material doubt as to the reliability of the findings or decisions of a Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee or results in a miscarriage of justice.

8. Definitions and Interpretations

158. Unless otherwise defined in these Rules, defined terms of World Rugby Regulation 17 apply.

159. The following definitions apply in these Rules:

"**Age-Grade Players**" means those players that are under 18 years of age. For the avoidance of doubt this does not include individuals playing professional, semi-professional or in adult rugby.

"**Age-Grade Rugby**" means rugby played by Age-Grade Players.

"**Business Day**" means a day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday in the place concerned.

"**Citing Complaint**" means the complaint of an act/s of alleged Foul Play.

"**Citing Commissioner**" means an independent official, appointed by the Union to a Match or post- match, that is responsible for reviewing alleged acts of Foul Play and for citing players who commit any alleged act(s) of Foul Play which in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner, having viewed all the available evidence, merited the player concerned being Ordered Off (i.e. the Red Card Test has been met).

"**Citing Commissioner Warning**" means a warning issued by a Citing Commissioner to a player for any act(s) of Foul Play that in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner falls just short of warranting that the Player concerned be Ordered Off in circumstances where the act(s) of Foul Play was not subject to a Temporary Suspension or Ordering Off.

"**Club**" or "**Rugby Club**" means any club affiliated with a Member Union or an affiliated Rugby Body.

"**Competition**" includes any Match played as part of a structured competition

or series, a trial match, a friendly match, a match against a visiting team from another union or matches, trials or any other competitions involving a Rugby Body.

"**Duty Judicial Officer**" means a member of the Judicial Panel that is tasked with making an initial assessment of the seriousness of the Foul Play allegedly committed by the Player (and if applicable taking into account any mitigating factors) and offering an appropriate reduction in sanction for early admission of wrongdoing.

"**Format**" means XVs, Rugby Sevens, Rugby Tens and any other format of rugby union.

"**Foul Play**" means anything a Player does within the playing enclosure that is contrary to Law 9 of the Laws of the Game governing obstruction, unfair play, repeated infringements, dangerous play, Misconduct and/or breach(es) of Law 3.7 or Law 4.7.

"**Game**" means Rugby Football played in accordance with the Laws of the Game.

"**Head of Integrity**" means the Rugby Australia Head of Integrity.

"**Judicial Committee**" means a committee appointed by the Union to hear and adjudicate on disciplinary matters.

"**Judicial Panel**" means a panel of individuals appointed by the Union from which a Judicial Committee may be selected.

"**Laws of the Game**" means the World Rugby Laws of the Game.

"**Long-Term Suspension**" means a Match suspension of eight (8) or more years.

"**Match**" means a rugby match sanctioned by the Union in which two teams compete against each other and includes all Formats and all Matches irrespective of whether the Match is played for competition points (e.g. pre-season and trial Matches).

"**Match Official**" means the referee and/or assistant referees appointed for that Match.

"**Member Union**" means a Union in membership of the Rugby AU.

"**Misconduct**" means any conduct, behaviour, statements and/or practices on or off the playing enclosure during or in connection with a Match or otherwise, that is unsporting and/or cheating and/or insulting and/or unruly and/or ill-disciplined and/or that brings or has the potential to bring the Game and/or any of its Rugby Bodies, Rugby Australia, World Rugby and/or its appointed personnel or commercial partners and/or Match Officials and/or judicial personnel into disrepute. Misconduct shall only exclude Foul Play during a

Match which has been the subject of consideration and a finding under the regime prescribed for Ordering Off and/or citing in these Rules.

"**Ordered Off**" means a Player sent off the playing enclosure permanently by the referee (including by way of two yellow cards) and is not permitted to take any further part in the Match.

"**Participant**" means a Player (including an amateur or non-contract player), a referee, touch judge or other Match Official, a selector, coach, trainer, manager or other team official, or an individual involved in the organisation, administration or promotion of Rugby Football including a director, other officer or employee of a Rugby Body.

"**Person**" means any other individual who is or has been at any time involved in, or a spectator at, the Game or Match in question, or involved in the organisation, administration or promotion of the Game.

"**Player**" means a player of the Game.

"**Red Card Test**" means an act of illegal and/or Foul Play that is sufficiently serious to justify the match referee sending the Player from the field of play for the remainder of the Match.

"**Rugby AU**" and "**Rugby Australia**" means the Rugby Australia Union Ltd.

"**Rugby Body**" means Rugby AU, any Member Union or Affiliated Union of the Rugby AU, or any Rugby Union, Club or other body in membership with or affiliated to a Member Union or Affiliated Union.

"**Rules**" means Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules including, including any Appendices.

"**Series of Matches**" means two or more associated Matches.

"**Temporary Suspension/Yellow Card**" means a Player is cautioned in a Match by the referee and temporarily sent off the playing enclosure by the referee for a period of ten minutes playing time (or two minutes in the case of Rugby Sevens) (which is spent in the "sin bin").

"**Tournament**" means an event in which teams and representing Unions at any level meet to participate in a Series of Matches in any Format.

"**Union**" means the governing body responsible for the affiliation, jurisdiction and sanctioning of a Match and/or a Competition.

160. In the interpretation of the Rules:

(a) words in the singular include the plural and vice versa;

(b) words denoting any gender include the other gender;

(c) "including" and similar words do not imply any limitation; and

(d) headings are included for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation of the provision.

APPENDIX 1. WORLD RUGBY SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (TAKEN FROM WR REGULATION 17)

NOTE: ANY ACT OF FOUL PLAY WHERE THE PERSON COMMITTING THE ACT OF FOUL PLAY MAKES CONTACT WITH AN OPPONENT'S HEAD AND/OR NECK, AND THAT CONTACT WITH THE HEAD AND/OR NECK WARRANTS A RED CARD, SHALL RESULT IN AT LEAST A MID-RANGE SANCTION.[6]

9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others, including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand or arm, elbow or shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Intentional contact with Eye(s)[7]	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless contact with Eye(s)[8]	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area[9]	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

[6] *This note does not apply to:*

(i) Laws 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play.

(ii) Where the Judicial Committee having completed steps 1-3 of Rules 83 to 92 inclusive, considers that the sanction would be wholly disproportionate to the offending Player's fault and the consequences thereof.

[7] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

[8] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

[9] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

Striking with head[10]	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 16+ weeks/matches	Max: 104 weeks/matches
Striking with knee	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Stamping or Trampling	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Tripping	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Kicking	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

[10] *Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.*

9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.

a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.

a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches	Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches	Max: 260 weeks/matches

9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.

Low-end: 24 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 48 weeks/matches	Top-end: 96+ weeks/matches	Max: Life

Recommended sanctions for two yellow cards in a match

2 Technical yellow cards in a match or 1 Technical and 1 Foul Play in a match – sending off sufficient; or

2 Foul Play yellow cards in one match – 1 match suspension

Please note:

1. In respect of offences not referred to in **Appendix 1** above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).
2. Notwithstanding the Sanctions in **Appendix 1** and/or the provisions of the Rules, in cases where the Player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Committee or Appeal Committee (as the case may be) may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.
3. In instances of verbal abuse of players, officials or spectators based on religion, race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, **higher match suspensions** should be applied.

APPENDIX 2. RUGBY AUSTRALIA - AGE-GRADE RUGBY DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND SANCTIONS

1. Applicability and Overriding Objective

1.1 The following procedures shall apply to all Age-Grade Rugby, save where amended disciplinary arrangements have been agreed in advance with Rugby Australia in relation to a specific Match, Competition, Tournament or Tour.

1.2 Where a 17 or 18-year-old is playing in an U19, U20 Match or an Adult Match, where permitted by Rugby Australia or State/Territory Competition rules, they shall be dealt with as an Adult in accordance with the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules.

1.3 The overriding objective of these procedures is that they are 'child-centric' and based on both Rugby Australia's core values and the following key principles:

a) those that know an Age-Grade Player best should, where possible, be the individuals that discipline, mentor, guide and educate the Age-Grade Player as part of their development;

b) the disciplinary procedure should be simple, easy to understand and conducted more informally than the adult procedure;

c) there should be minimal delay;

d) the welfare of Age-Grade Players is paramount and any arrangements around hearings should carefully consider their educational commitments and family life. Thus, hearings will be conducted locally and ideally by those with professional experience in dealing with young people;

e) the details of a case involving an Age-Grade Player should not normally be publicised and the Rugby Australia Child Safe Framework and Safeguarding Children Guidelines shall be adhered to at all times;

f) playing suspensions should not normally be so severe as to discourage Age-Grade Players from continuing to play rugby and should be tiered in severity to their age, responsibility and culpability. They should normally be less than adults receive and should be given in matches not weeks because of the varied playing programmes in Age-Grade Rugby; and

g) there shall be no financial penalties or costs imposed on an Age-Grade Player.

1.4 Each State/Territory Union shall appoint a suitable person to provide advice and assistance in Age-Grade Rugby disciplinary matters to a School or Club if required.

1.5 All disciplinary hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the framework set out in the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules, adapted as appropriate to meet the needs of the Age-Grade Player as per the key principles set out in paragraph 1.3 above.

2. Discipline in Schools

2.1 Subject to 1.1, Age-Grade Rugby disciplinary issues in Schools shall:

a) where a match is played as part of a Tournament or Competition organised or arranged by a Schools' Association, be dealt with by a Judicial Committee convened by the Schools' Association (of no more than three persons) in accordance with these procedures and sanctions table; and

b) where a match is not played as part of a Tournament or Competition organised or arranged by a Schools' Association, be dealt with by the Principal (or by a person(s) with delegated authority) as per the School's internal disciplinary process and in accordance with these procedures and sanctions table.

A School/Schools' Association may seek advice and/or assistance (including being provided with a State/Territory Union Judicial Committee if required) from their State/Territory Union in relation to having any on-field disciplinary matter dealt with.

3. Discipline in Clubs

U12 and below

3.1 Subject to 3.3, any rugby disciplinary matter arising in an U12 match and below in a Club shall be dealt with in accordance with these procedures by the Age-Grade Player's Club or person(s) delegated within the Club to deal with the matter.

U13 to U18

3.2 Subject to 3.3, any rugby disciplinary matter arising in an U13 to U18 match shall be dealt with by the Judicial Committee of the relevant Union or Competition (of no more than three persons) in accordance with these procedures and sanctions table.

3.3 Foul Play incidents involving serious injury or result in a police investigation shall be referred to the Rugby Australia Head of Integrity who shall determine, in consultation with the relevant Union or Competition, who shall deal with the matter.

4. Representative, State and Territory Teams

4.1 Subject to paragraph 1.1, disciplinary matters involving an Age-Grade Player of a Representative Team shall be dealt with by a Rugby Australia Judicial Officer or by a Judicial Committee.

4.2 Subject to paragraph 1.1, where an Age-Grade Player of a visiting Representative Team is ordered-off the playing enclosure, the Referee shall provide a report to the Rugby Australia Head of Integrity, who shall send it to the Age-Grade Player's home Union to be dealt with.

4.3 Age-Grade Players representing their State or Territory shall have any disciplinary matter dealt with by their State or Territory, unless the State or Territory determines, in consultation with Rugby Australia, that Rugby Australia should deal with the matter.

5. Inter-State/Territory Fixtures and Tours – Schools and Clubs

5.1 Subject to paragraph 1.1, where a visiting Age-Grade Player is ordered-off the playing enclosure, the Referee shall provide a report to the State or Territory Union where the match is played, who shall send it on to the visiting Age-Grade Player's School, Club or Union to be dealt with in accordance with these procedures.

5.2 Subject to paragraph 1.1, if an Age-Grade Player is ordered-off the playing enclosure whilst playing away in an inter-State/Territory fixture or tour-match, then the matter shall be dealt with on the Player's return in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 3 of these procedures. The Age-Grade Player will be provisionally suspended until their case has been dealt with in accordance with paragraph 9.1.

6. Tournaments and Competitions

6.1 Subject to paragraph 1.1, if an Age-Grade Player is ordered-off in a Tournament or Competition the matter shall be dealt with on the Player's return in accordance with paragraphs 2 or 3 of these procedures. The Age-Grade Player will be provisionally suspended until their case has been dealt with in accordance with paragraph 9.1.

7. Reporting

7.1 In all cases where the Referee has ordered-off an Age-Grade Player the referee shall, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match, provide a copy of their report to the Age-Grade Player's Club, School or Schools' Association as appropriate and the relevant State or Territory Union. Failure to do so will not render any disciplinary proceedings invalid but may be a ground for an adjournment of any hearing.

7.2 Any finding and/or sanction imposed by a Club, School or Schools' Association or Club in relation to the Age-Grade Rugby disciplinary incident shall be reported to the relevant State or Territory Union within **48 hours.**

7.3 The Rugby Australia Head of Integrity and the relevant State or Territory Union shall have the power to review any finding and/or sanction imposed by a Club, School or Schools' Association and, if they are of the view that the finding and/or sanction imposed was unreasonable in all the circumstances, have the power to request that the Club, School or School's Association review the matter in these with these procedures and the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules.

8. Citing

8.1 Subject to paragraph 1.1, the following procedures in relation to the commencement of a citing complaint shall apply.

8.2 The power to bring a citing complaint applies to U13 to U18 matches only.

8.3 Any citing complaint arising out of a Club Age-Grade match shall only be made by a Nominated Official of the citing Club. It shall be lodged with the cited Age-Grade Player's Club and State or Territory Union not later than the 7th day following the match. The relevant State or Territory Union shall, subject to paragraph 3.3, refer the matter to a Judicial Committee to be dealt with in accordance with these procedures.

8.4 A citing complaint arising out of a School match shall only be made by the citing School's Principal (or person with delegated authority) and shall be lodged not later than the 7th day following the match with the cited Age-Grade Player's School or Schools' Association (if the match was organised or arranged by the Schools' Association). The complaint shall be dealt with by the cited Age-Grade Player's Principal (or a person with delegated authority) or the Schools' Association (if the match was organised or arranged by the Schools' Association). Advice is available from the Rugby Australia Head of Integrity and the relevant State or Territory Union if required.

8.5 A citing may be initiated where there is an allegation that an Age-Grade Player committed an act of Foul Play but was not given a red card for that act. The citing shall be in writing, stating:

a) the date, venue and teams participating in the match;

b) details of the alleged act of Foul Play, including as accurately as possible, the point of time in the match, score at the time and position on the field when and where the incident is alleged to have occurred;

c) the identity of (or means of identifying) the Age-Grade Player(s) alleged to have committed the act(s) of Foul Play; and

d) sufficient evidence (including any video footage) to establish a case to answer.

8.6 A citing may be made whether or not the alleged act of Foul Play was detected by the Referee. Where the Referee did not detect the act of Foul Play cited, then it shall be proved by the citing party that a Referee, having detected the act, would be expected to have issued a red card. However, where a Referee, having detected the alleged act, decided that it was either not Foul Play, or that it was, but they took on-field action other than sending off the Player, the citing party shall prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the Referee was wrong in not sending the Age-Grade Player off.

9. Provisional Suspension

9.1 An Age-Grade Player ordered-off the field of play shall not take part or be selected for any further match until their disciplinary case has been dealt with in accordance with these procedures.

9.2 A suspended Age-Grade Player who elects to appeal a finding and/or sanction that has been imposed shall not take part or be selected for any further match until their appeal has been dealt with and it has been directed that they may play again, unless their suspension has already expired.

9.3 An Age-Grade Player that is cited is not provisionally suspended pending the resolution of their case.

10. Sanctions

10.1 Playing suspensions imposed on an Age-Grade Player are to be in accordance with the framework set out in the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules and the Age-Grade Rugby sanctions table and shall apply to all the Age-Grade Player's

forthcoming matches, irrespective of whether the Player is scheduled to play for their School or Club or any other team.

11. Appeals

11.1 Subject to paragraph 1.1, appeals in a School setting in relation to an Age-Grade rugby disciplinary incident shall be in accordance with the School's (or Schools' Association) internal disciplinary procedures. Save for the power to request a review in paragraph 7.4, there is no right of appeal from a decision of the School or Schools' Association to a State or Territory Union or Rugby Australia.

11.2 Appeals from a decision of a Club, sub-Union/zone or State/Territory Union shall be dealt with by the relevant State or Territory Union Appeal Committee. Any appeal must be lodged with the State or Territory Union by the Age-Grade Player concerned not later than 48 hours following provision of the written decision.

11.3 Appeals from a decision of a Rugby Australia Judicial Officer/Committee shall be dealt with by the Rugby Australia Appeal Officer/Committee. Any appeal must be lodged with Rugby Australia by the Age-Grade Player concerned not later than 48 hours following provision of the written decision.

11.4 Subject to 155 and 156 of the Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules, the decision of an Appeal Committee is final and binding and there is no further right of appeal.

APPENDIX 2 (CONTINUED) - WORLD RUGBY AGE-GRADE SANCTIONS FOR FOUL PLAY (TAKEN FROM WR REGULATION 17)

NOTE: ANY ACT OF FOUL PLAY WHERE THE PERSON COMMITTING THE ACT OF FOUL PLAY MAKES CONTACT WITH AN OPPONENT'S HEAD AND/OR NECK, AND THAT CONTACT WITH THE HEAD AND/OR NECK WARRANTS A RED CARD, SHALL RESULT IN AT LEAST A MID-RANGE SANCTION.[11]

9.11. Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others, including leading with the elbow or forearm, or jumping into, or over, a tackler.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.12. A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Intentional contact with Eye(s)[12]	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
Reckless contact with Eye(s)[13]	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
Contact with Eye Area[14]	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

11 *This note does not apply to Laws 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling) where the relevant entry points reflect the specific nature of the foul play.*

[12] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

[13] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

[14] *The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.*

	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm, elbow or shoulder	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Striking with head[15]	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Striking with knee	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
Stamping or Trampling	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Tripping	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Kicking	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.12. A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

[15] *Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.*

U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches

9.13. A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.14. A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.15. Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.16. A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.17. A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.18. A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.19. Dangerous play in a scrum.

a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: warning[16]	Mid-range: 1 match	Top-end: 2+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

9.20. Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.

a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

[16] A warning shall form part of the Player's disciplinary record whilst as Age-Grade level but not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

d. A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

9.27. A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:

Hair pulling or grabbing	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
Spitting at anyone	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 18+ matches
Other	**Up to U15s Sanction**	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28. A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

9.28. A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches

9.28. A player must not physically abuse Match Officials

Up to U15s Sanction	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches
U16 to U18 Sanction	Low-end: 12 matches	Mid-range: 24 matches	Top-end: 48+ matches

Recommended sanctions for two yellow cards in a match

2 Technical yellow cards in a match or 1 Technical and 1 Foul Play in a match – sending off sufficient; or

2 Foul Play yellow cards in one match – 1 match suspension

Please note:

1. Where '+' is denoted, Schools, Clubs, Rugby Australia and the State/Territory Unions' Judicial Committees have the power to apply, up to the maximum sanction indicated, increased sanctions for very serious breaches of conduct.
2. Please note that in respect of any offence(s) not referred to above, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the School, Club or Rugby Australia and the State/Territory Unions' Judicial Committees.
3. In instances of verbal abuse of players, officials or spectators based on religion, race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, higher match suspensions should be applied.
4. A Warning shall form part of the Player's disciplinary record while at Age-Grade level but shall not extend into their senior disciplinary record.

APPENDIX 3. ORDERING OFF REPORT FORM (REFEREE/ASSISTANT REFEREE)

Name of Player:		
Player's number:		
Player's club:		
Date of ordering off:		
Match between:		
Grade:		
Final Score:		
Approx. time in match when offence occurred:		
Where did offence occur on the field:		
Where were you in relation to the offence:		
Player's reaction after being sent off:		

ORDERING OFF DUE TO 2 x YELLOW CARDS (LEAVE BLANK IF ORDERING OFF IS FOR A STRAIGHT RED CARD)		
For what offence/s was the 1st YC issued? *(List Law reference/s)*		
For what offence/s was the 2nd YC issued? *(List Law reference/s)*		
STRAIGHT RED CARD OFFENCE (LEAVE BLANK IF ORDERING OFF IS FOR 2 YELLOW CARDS)		
For what offence/s was the red card issued? *(List **Law 9 'Foul Play'** reference/s):* If the Player had been previously warned or yellow carded during the game, provide details:		
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF OFFENCE:		
As a minimum, include brief context (pre- & post events), exact language used if dissent, whether an AR was consulted, and for dangerous play indicate the part of the body used by the Player and part of victim's body involved/affected.		
Match Official Name	(State if you were the Referee/Assistant Referee)	

APPENDIX 4. CITING COMPLAINT REFERRAL FORM

Referring Team/Rugby Body/Union:	Nominated Official name:
Match:	
Venue:	Date/time of Incident:
Name of alleged 'offending' player (IF KNOWN):	
Team/Rugby Body/Union of Player:	
Playing Position of Player:	Number:
Incident	
Describe what occurred in detail (include time of incident):	
Name of alleged victim player/s:	
Injuries sustained (if any):	
Names of any witness(es):	
Detected by Match Officials? If so, what action was taken:	
Any other information i.e. evidence to be provided:	

NOMINATED OFFICIAL (SIGNATURE):_____

TEAM/RUGBY BODY/UNION _____

Referrals shall be made within **[ ] hours of completion of match and returned to [ ] name [ ] email.**

A separate form shall be completed for each incident

APPENDIX 5. CITING COMMISSIONER WARNING FORM

Team				**Competition**			
Full Name of Player				**Player Number**			
Venue				**Date of Incident**			
Match Result			**pts**				**pts**

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)

☐ 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.
- ☐ Leading with the forearm
- ☐ Leading with the elbow
- ☐ Jumping into/over a tackle

☐ 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone.
- ☐ Biting
- ☐ Intentional contact with eye(s)
- ☐ Reckless contact with eye(s)
- ☐ Contact with eye area
- ☐ Punching or striking with hand or arm
- ☐ Striking with elbow
- ☐ Striking with shoulder
- ☐ Striking with head
- ☐ Striking with knee
- ☐ Stamping or trampling
- ☐ Tripping
- ☐ Kicking

☐ 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.

☐ 9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes but is not limited to tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

☐ 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

☐ 9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

☐ 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

☐ 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

☐ 9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

☐ 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.

☐ 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.
- ☐ (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul
- ☐ (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders
- ☐ (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul
- ☐ (d) A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs

☐ 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

☐ 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- ☐ Hair pulling or grabbing
- ☐ Spitting at anyone
- ☐ Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐ 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.

☐ 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.

☐ 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

☐ 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

☐ 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials

Period (of game when incident occurred)	1st Half ☐	2nd Half ☐	Extra time ☐	Elapsed time in half

Proximity of Official(s) to incident						Metres
Score at that time			pts			pts

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

Citing Commissioner		Date	

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO THE DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL AND SHALL FORM PART OF THE PLAYER'S DISCIPLINARY RECORD

APPENDIX 6. CITING COMMISSIONER REPORT FORM

Team				**Competition**			
Full Name of Player				**Player Number**			
Venue				**Date of Incident**			
Match Result			**pts**				**pts**

Nature of Offence: (Please indicate appropriate offence)

☐ 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.
- ☐ Leading with the forearm
- ☐ Leading with the elbow
- ☐ Jumping into/over a tackle

☐ 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone.
- ☐ Biting
- ☐ Intentional contact with eye(s)
- ☐ Reckless contact with eye(s)
- ☐ Contact with eye area
- ☐ Punching or striking with hand or arm
- ☐ Striking with elbow
- ☐ Striking with shoulder
- ☐ Striking with head
- ☐ Striking with knee
- ☐ Stamping or trampling
- ☐ Tripping
- ☐ Kicking

☐ 9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone.

☐ 9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes but is not limited to tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.

☐ 9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.

☐ 9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.

☐ 9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.

☐ 9.17 A player must not tackle, charge pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.

☐ 9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.

☐ 9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.

☐ 9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.
- ☐ (a) A player must not charge into a ruck or maul
- ☐ (b) A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders
- ☐ (c) A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul
- ☐ (d) A player may lever the jackler out of the contest at the ruck but must not drop their weight onto them or target the lower limbs

☐ 9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.

☐ 9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship.
- ☐ Hair pulling or grabbing
- ☐ Spitting at anyone
- ☐ Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)
- ☐ Other (please specify)

☐ 9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official.

☐ 9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official.

☐ 9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.

☐ 9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.

☐ 9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials

Period (of game when incident occurred)	1st Half ☐	2nd Half ☐	Extra time ☐	Elapsed time in half	

Proximity of Official(s) to incident					Metres	
Score at that time			pts			pts

Please give a detailed report below (PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY)

Citing Commissioner		Date	

THIS REPORT MUST BE COMPLETED AND PROVIDED TO A DESIGNATED DISCIPLINARY OFFICIAL PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE CITING PERIOD

APPENDIX 7. DISCIPLINARY DECISION FORM

Match	[insert] v [insert]		
Union		Competition	
Date of Match		Match Venue	
Applicable Rules	Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules		

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE			
Player's surname		Date of birth	
Forename(s)			
Referee Name		Plea	Admitted ☐ Not admitted ☐
Offence		Select Red card ☐ Citing ☐ Other ☐ If "Other" selected, please specify:	
Summary of Sanction	[Insert] weeks/matches OR No Sanction [delete as appropriate]		

HEARING DETAILS			
Hearing date		Hearing venue	
Chairman / JO			
Other Members of Judicial Committee			
Appearance Player	Yes ☐ No ☐	Appearance Union	Yes ☐ No ☐
Player's Representative(s) (if any)		Disciplinary Officer and/or other attendees	
List of documents/materials provided to Player in advance of hearing			

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CITING / REFEREE'S REPORT / INCIDENT FOOTAGE

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF OTHER EVIDENCE (e.g. medical reports)

SUMMARY OF PLAYER'S EVIDENCE

FINDINGS OF FACT

DECISION	
Breach admitted ☐	Proven ☐ Not proven ☐ Other disposal (please state) ☐

SANCTIONING PROCESS

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS	
Assessment of intent	
Intentional ☐	Reckless ☐
State reasons	

ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS CONTINUED	
Nature of actions	Existence of provocation
Whether player retaliated	Self-defence
Effect on victim	Effect on match
Vulnerability of victim	Level of participation/premeditation
Conduct completed/attempted	Other features of player's conduct

Entry point		
Low end ☐ Weeks/Matches	Mid-range ☐ Weeks/Matches	Top-end* ☐ Weeks/Matches

*If Top-end, the Judicial Committee should do a further assessment and identify, if appropriate, an entry point between the Top-end starting point and the maximum sanction and provide the reasons for determining this below:.

In making this assessment, the Judicial Committee should consider Rules 86(a), 86(g), and 86(h).

Reasons for selecting the Entry Point above Top-end

RELEVANT OFF-FIELD MITIGATING FACTORS	
Acknowledgment of commission of foul play and timing	Player's disciplinary record
Youth and/or inexperience of player	Conduct prior to and at hearing
Remorse and timing of remorse	Other off-field mitigation

Number of weeks/matches deducted:

Summary of reason for number of weeks/matches deducted:

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT OFF-FIELD AGGRAVATING FACTORS
Player's status as an offender of the Laws of the Game
Need for deterrence
Any other off-field aggravating factors

Number of additional weeks/matches:

SANCTION

NOTE: PLAYERS ORDERED OFF OR CITED BY A CITING COMMISSIONER ARE PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED PENDING THE HEARING OF THEIR CASE, SUCH SUSPENSION SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN SANCTIONING

Total sanction		**Sending off sufficient** ☐
Sanction commences		
Sanction concludes		
Matches / tournaments included in sanction		

Costs	

Signature (JO or Chairperson)	_____	**Date**	_____

NOTE: YOU HAVE [insert] HOURS FROM NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE TO LODGE AN APPEAL WITH [insert]

APPENDIX 8. EXAMPLE TIMING SCHEDULE

PLAYERS ORDERED OFF

Standard Procedure

Action	Timing
Submission of Referee's Report	
Submission of Assistant Referee's Report	

Admission of Breach Sanction

Action	Timing
Notification of acceptance or rejection of proposed sanction	

YELLOW CARDS

Action	Timing
Challenge of yellow card for mistaken identity	

CITING COMMISSIONER WARNINGS

Action	Timing
Challenge of Citing Commissioner Warning for mistaken identity	

CITINGS

Action	Timing
Citing by a Citing Commissioner	
Notification of Citing Commissioner Warning to the Union	
Referral of alleged Foul Play to a Match appointed Citing Commissioner	

CITING COMPLAINTS

Action	Timing
Submission of Citing Complaint by a Union	
Submission of Citing Complaint by a Rugby Body	

HEARINGS

Action	Timing
Judicial Committee report of its decision	
Notice of Appeal – Person or Participant or a person or body affected	
Notice of Appeal – Union, Rugby Australia or World Rugby	